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Tuesday, February 16, 2010  
Caitlyn Welle  
Land O'Lakes, Non-Commercial Manager

Education Appropriations Public Hearing  
Dear Connecticut State Legislators

I urge you to stop funding cuts to the School Nutrition Program in Connecticut. As an employee of Land O'Lakes Company (Co.) I work directly with Connecticut schools to provide nutritious food for all students. State funding directly impacts my job at Land O'Lakes. Land O'Lakes was one of the first manufacturers to be involved with school nutrition and spend thousands of dollars each year in this segment. Many jobs at Land O'Lakes are affected by the amount of government funding to support the purchases of healthy products for school lunch and breakfast programs.

A January 28th letter from the National Governors Association urges Congress ***"significantly increase funding for school nutrition programs contained in child nutrition legislation in order to reduce child hunger and improve the health and nutrition of children across the nation."*** Governors Bill Ritter, Jr. (D-CO) and M. Jodi Rell (R-CT), Chair and Vice Chair respectively, of the NGA's Education, Early Childhood and Workforce Committee, wrote that "[b]y providing increased funding, Congress can ensure that child nutrition programs can effectively protect the health and well-being of low-income children." They noted that Congress "can incentivize and help support state and local strategies to increase overall program effectiveness and operation and take an important stride to reduce hunger and food insecurity in America, improve child nutrition and health, and enhance child development and school readiness."

Again, I urge you to stop funding cuts and support School Nutrition for Connecticut schools.

Sincerely

*Caitlyn Welle*

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Land O'Lakes Non-Commercial Territory Manager, New England